

BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION
& HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
(518)237-8643

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO. _____
QUAD. _____
SERIES _____
NEG.NO. _____

YOUR NAME: Kathy Howe DATE: Sept. 1994

YOUR ADDRESS: 133 South Fitzhugh Street TELEPHONE: (716)546-7029
Rochester, NY 14608

ORGANIZATION (if any): The Landmark Society of Western New York, Inc.

* * * * *

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME(S): Dr. Abdiel B. Carpenter House
2. COUNTY: Monroe TOWN: Greece
3. STREET LOCATION: 3490 Latta Road
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public [] b. private [X]
5. PRESENT OWNER: Luigi & Gloria Latragna ADDRESS: (same) Rochester, NY 14612

6. USE: Original: residence/farm Present: residence
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes[X] No[]
Interior accessible: Explain private residence

DESCRIPTION

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard [X] b. stone [X](fdn.) c. brick [] d. board and batten []
e. cobblestone [] f. shingles [] g. stucco [] other: Asphalt roof shingles.

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: (if known) a. wood frame with interlocking joints [X]
b. wood frame with light members []
c. masonry load bearing walls []
d. metal (explain) _____
e. other _____

10. CONDITION: a. excellent [] b. good [X] c. fair [] d. deteriorated []

11. INTEGRITY: a. original site [X] b. moved [] if so, when? _____
c. List major alterations and dates (if known):
(see continuation sheet)

12. PHOTO: 13. MAP:

"Oh, yes - from the side, this is more imposing. Very nice architectural details and original window shutters. Well, this is obviously a 'red.' " P. Malo.

COLOR CODE

Red

14. THREATS TO BUILDING:

- a. none known [] b. zoning [] c. roads [X]*
d. developers [] e. deterioration []
f. other: *Close proximity to busy road.

15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:

- a. barn [] b. carriage house [] c. garage [X]
d. privy [] e. shed [] f. greenhouse []
g. shop [] h. gardens []
i. landscape features:
j. other: Outhouse, milk house, kitchen building, well pump, and the remains of various outbuildings including the former carriagehouse, stable and sheds.

16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):

- a. open land [] b. woodland []
c. scattered buildings [X]
d. densely built-up [] e. commercial []
f. industrial [] g. residential [X]
h. other: Former office for Dr. Abdie! B. Carpenter and his son A. Milton located across street at 3491 Latta Road.

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

(see continuation sheet)

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

(see continuation sheet)

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: c. 1840/c. 1860 enlarged to present Greek Revival form.

ARCHITECT: not determined

BUILDER: not determined

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

(see continuation sheet)

21. SOURCES:

(see continuation sheet)

22. THEME: Agricultural: House and outbuildings.

Town of Greece Historic Sites Survey
Monroe County, New York
3490 Latta Road
page 3

11c.

Former porch at rear, northeast side of house was added onto and enclosed (1960s). A chimney was also added here (1960s).

Detached garage built c. 1962.

A one-story, enclosed mud room at the back, north, elevation of the house was destroyed by fire in the 1950s. A deck and gazebo were added here c. 1990.

Carriage barn fell down in 1991.

Door at west wall of west porch was removed and sealed over in the 1940s.

Former one-story solarium on the east side of the house (shown in historic photo) was removed c. 1930s.

Original balustrades on the one-story east and west porch wings have been removed.

Original roof structure extensively damaged by fire in 1958. A new roof structure was built after the fire which is 1' higher than the original roof.

Center window at front elevation, second floor, was sealed over in the late 1920s and covered with shutters on the exterior.

Replacement floorboards installed on interior about 1932. Also plumbing and new electrical wiring added c. 1932.

17. This house is located on a 1-acre lot on the north side of Latta Road (State Route 18) in the northwest quadrant of the town. The house faces south. A driveway is located east of the house and leads to a non-contributing frame garage (c. 1962). The property retains four surviving outbuildings and the ruins of several other outbuildings. Behind the house to the north is the contributing frame kitchen building (c. 1870s). West of the house is a contributing milk house and a contributing privy, both built in the mid to late nineteenth century. There are ruins of a carriage barn, stables, storage barn, chicken coop, and three sheds on the property. Across the street at 3491 Latta Road is a mid-nineteenth-century Greek Revival house, which once served as Dr. Carpenter's office. The neighborhood has post World War II ranch and split level houses.

18. The Dr. Abdiel B. Carpenter House is a late example of the Greek Revival style. The house originally began as a one and one-half story, square block, built c. 1840, and was greatly expanded into its current temple-front, two-story form about 1860. The house is of post and beam construction on a stone foundation. The exterior walls are clad in wood clapboard.

The form of the house consists of a rectangular plan, front-gabled, two-story main block; a cross-gabled, two-story wing and a one-story, hipped roof porch on the west side; a one-story, hipped roof wing with a porch on the east side; and a lower, gable-roofed, two-story rear wing with a one-story, shed-roofed addition. A wide entablature, with guttae above the architrave and a denticulated cornice, wraps around the various elevations of the main block, west wing, and the side porches. Fenestration throughout the house is generally repetitive and symmetrical. Window types include two-over-two, four-over-four, and six-over-six, double-hung wood sash. Most of the shutters appear to be original.

The three-bay-wide front elevation of the main block features a full-height portico with four fluted Doric order columns supporting a pediment above. The columns have unusual diamond-shaped woodwork in the abacus. The ends of the facade have full-height Doric pilasters. The soffits at the front porch feature recessed wood panels. The center entrance at the front features fluted Doric pilasters with an acanthus leaf motif in the capitals, and an entablature above. The front door has two elongated recessed panels. The first floor windows at the front are floor-to-ceiling height, two-over-two, double-hung wood sash which open onto the porch. The two end windows on the second floor are six-over-six, double-hung wood sash. The center window opening has been sealed and is now covered with closed shutters.

The east and west side porches create a symmetrically balanced design. These porches feature paneled square columns at the ends with pairs of round, fluted Doric columns framing the center entrance. The south walls of both porches have an unusual design with groups of three paneled pilasters on either side of a center entrance. The entrances feature Italianate style doors with two recessed wood panels in the lower part and two round-arched glazed panels above. The same door type can be found on the east elevation of the east porch. The original door on the west elevation of the west porch has been removed and the opening sealed over. Historic photographs show that these porches were originally crowned by balustrades.

18. continued

The cross-gabled, two-story, west wing is two-bays-wide and one-bay-deep. This wing has a triangular pediment matching the one at the front of the house. Located at the northwest corner between the rear wing and the west wing is a small one-story, frame section once used as an indoor privy.

A historic photograph reveals that a one-story solarium once projected from the east side of house. A full-height, bifold window with a shouldered surround, matching the door and window trim on the interior of the house, is intact in the first bay north of the east porch. This opening once led out to the solarium. A porch was once located north of the solarium. This was later enclosed and enlarged.

The slightly lower two-story rear wing has a narrower frieze than that found on the main block and west wing.

The contributing kitchen building (c. 1870s, per owner), behind the house, is a one-story, gable-roofed frame structure with a fieldstone foundation and vertical tongue-and-groove siding. According to the present owner, this structure originally housed the kitchen. It has three rooms, one of which was a freezer with insulated walls and ceiling. The building was later used as living quarters for farm help.

The contributing five-hole privy is in a deteriorated condition. It is constructed of heavy post and beam construction with split lath on the interior and clapboards on the exterior.

The contributing milk house is a gable-roofed structure of post and beam construction with clapboard siding. The gable ends feature Greek Revival cornice returns. The entrance to the milkhouse is in the center of the east elevation. The interior has plank walls, a concrete floor, and a loft.

The non-contributing frame garage is side-gabled with two overhead garage doors on the south elevation. The roof overhang on the south side is supported by three wood columns.

20. Built c. 1840-60 this house is historically significant for its association with Dr. Abdiel Bliss Carpenter, one of Greece's prominent citizens. The house is architecturally significant as well as an outstanding example of the Greek Revival style. The

20. continued

house retains a high degree of integrity of design, materials, and craftsmanship.

The Greek Revival was the dominant style of American residential architecture from the 1830s to the 1850s. The house features a variety of Greek Revival characteristics including a porticoed temple front with Doric order columns and a pediment, a symmetrically balanced design with wings, porches with Doric columns, and a wide entablature. The Greek Revival style represented America's interest at the time in the classical architecture of ancient Greece.

The house began c. 1840 as a simple one and one-half story block and was expanded into its present Greek Revival temple-front form about 1860. As such it is a relatively late example of the style. The narrow, elongated proportions of the facade and its attenuated columns are typical of the late phase of the Greek Revival. Some of the woodwork found on this house is unusual including the diamond-shaped motifs found in the abacus of the columns and the groups of paneled pilasters at the side porches. The craftsmanship exhibited by this house is outstanding as shown, for example, by the guttae and dentils in the entablature.

The survival of three of the historic outbuildings - kitchen building, milkhouse, and privy - contributes to the period setting of the property. Also, the survival of Dr. Carpenter's former office across the street at 3491 Latta Road further adds to the integrity of the setting.

A print (see attached) of the house showing the south and west elevations appears in *History of Monroe County 1788-1877*. The house looked much as it does today with the exception of a small one-story, gable-roofed wing which projected from the west elevation of the rear wing and the balustrade over the porch. This print also shows the surrounding landscape which included two different types of fences along the road, the former carriagebarn and stables, and the milkhouse and kitchen. The trim around the carriagebarn doors and windows with its shouldered surround matched that found on the interior of the house. According to the current owner, flower gardens and stone walks were once located east of the house.

20. continued

The house first appears on the 1852 county map under the name of A.B. Carpenter. The property also appears on the 1858 and 1872 county maps, on part of lot 29, owned by Dr. A.B. Carpenter. The 1902 county map shows this as a 62-acre property owned by Elizb. Carpenter. The 1924 county map shows the house and two outbuildings on 61 acres owned by C. & N. Carpenter.

Abdiel Bliss Carpenter was born on May 11, 1809 in Seneca, Ontario County. He received his general education at the Geneva Academy (now Hobart College). His diploma to practice medicine was received on January 8, 1831 from the Fairfield Medical School in Herkimer County. Most of the Carpenters were farmers, but Abdiel and his three brothers became doctors. Abdiel came to Greece as a young doctor to assist Dr. M.B. Gage and soon he established his own practice in North Greece.

In 1830, Abdiel married Jane Louisa Rowley of Greece. Their first home was a log cabin at the northwest corner of North Greece and Latta Roads. They had six children, Abdiel Milton, Almeda, Frank, Annie, Babe, and Jessie. Annie, Babe and Almeda died at a young age. Frank fought in the Civil War and died of starvation and dysentery as a prisoner of war. The death date for Jessie is not known. Abdiel Milton became a doctor and took over his father's practice in the office across the street at 3491 Latta Road. He married Louisa Burns Butts.

Abdiel B.'s first wife, Jane, died in 1859. He remarried in 1861 to Caroline Sperry. Abdiel and Caroline had three children, Charles Alfred, Helen, and Anna. The family of Charles Alfred Carpenter continued to live here. Charles' ambition in life was to be a doctor and he studied at Brockport before being called back from school to work the farm for his ill father. Charles married Kathren Toal, an Irish Catholic, who had worked for the Carpenter family as part of the household staff. When Caroline Carpenter died in 1918, the farm was failing economically and it became a dairy farm for a short period in the late 1920s.

In 1932, Kathren Toal Carpenter's brother, Tom Toal, and his wife Carrie, purchased the house. At the time when the Toals acquired the property, the Carpenters were financially struggling and the house had fallen into disrepair. Necessary repairs and upgrades were made by the Toals in the 1930s to make the old house more liveable. The Toals ran this as a fruit

20. continued

farm. Tom and Carrie had two children and made the front part of the house into an apartment in 1948 for their daughter Florence and her husband, Gerald Whelehan. The Whelehans raised their two children here. By the time the Whelehans sold the house in 1958 to real estate developer Max Farash, it was again in need of numerous repairs.

Much of the original acreage was sold off by Farash. The house remained empty for one year and was then sold with one acre of land to Henry and Doris Schoonmaker. The Schoonmakers did a lot of exterior work on the house and built the addition near the back of the east elevation and added a two-car garage. In 1983 Luigi and Gloria Latragna purchased the property and are the current owners. The Latragnas have continued to carefully maintain the historic architectural integrity of the house.

21.

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Historic photographs of 3490 Latta Road, Gloria Latragna.

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Town of Greece Historic Sites Survey
Monroe County, New York
3490 Latta Road
page 9

21. continued

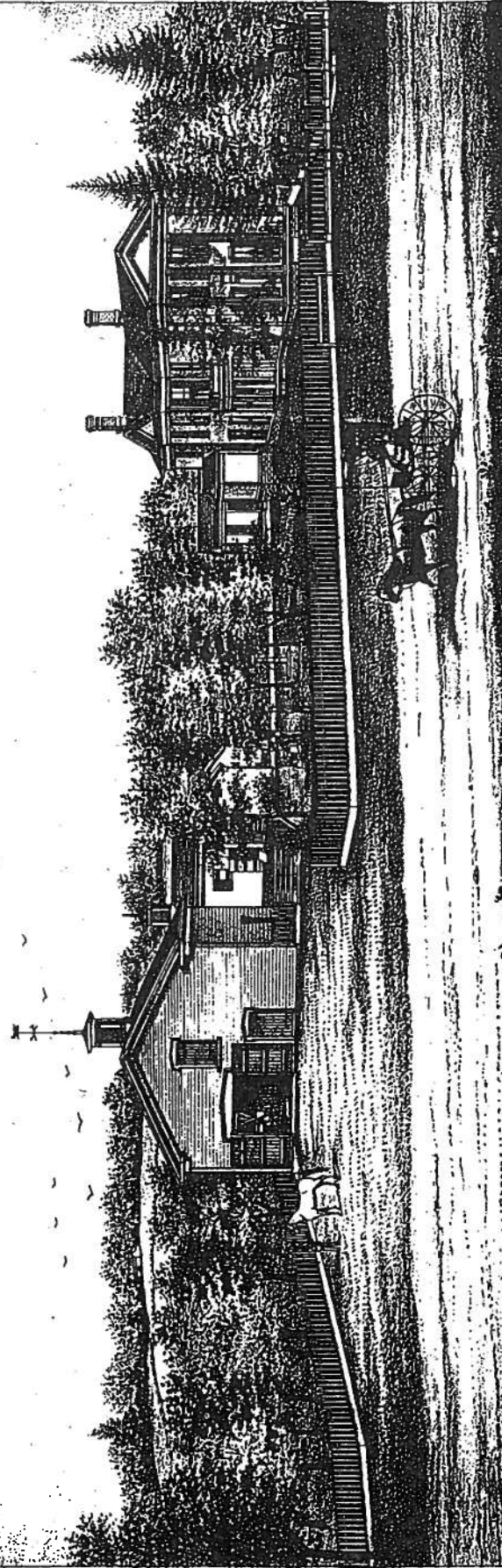
Interview with Gloria Latragna, August 17, 1994.

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Lathrop & Co., 1902.

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The Abdiel B. Carpenter House, 3490 Latta Road. (Print from *History of Monroe County, New York 1788-1877*. Philadelphia, PA: Everts, Ensign & Everts, 1877. Plate LXVII.)

